

# Oceanids News



## UC SAN DIEGO OCEANIDS BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**VOL. LXII No. 2**

**December 2024/January 2025**

**WHALE WATCHING TRIP SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2025**

**BOAT #1: CHECK-IN 8:30 A.M.**

Boat leaves at 9 a.m. Sharp! Returns at 12 p.m.

**BOAT #2: CHECK-IN 12 P.M.**

Boat leaves at 12:30 p.m. Sharp! Returns at 3:30 p.m.

Where: Seaforth Sportfishing

1717 Quivira Rd., San Diego 92109

PRICE: \$30/ADULT, \$15/CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS (INCLUDING INFANTS)

Because this is an event organized for international students and scholars, Oceanids/Retirees must mail check and signed waiver form to Liz Wills before January 2, 2025 to be guaranteed one of the 20 spaces saved for Oceanids/Retirees. Contact Liz for the mailing address. Because the adult tickets are half the normal price, they are sure to go quickly. You will receive an email confirmation when your check and signed liability waiver are received by Liz. Email [lizfong2@gmail.com](mailto:lizfong2@gmail.com) to get the required waiver form and other info. Your check should be made out to Oceanids.

Questions: Call Liz at 858-232-7545 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Or Email Georgina at [<gbsham@gmail.com>](mailto:gbsham@gmail.com) any time

### **SPECIAL Powerpoint Presentation by Dr. Thomas Jefferson**

to prepare us for the trip. You will learn all there is to know about whales! Come for an informative evening! **Wednesday, January 22, 7 p.m. Dance Hall on East side of Univ. Center 409**

Please see page 3 for more on Dr. Jefferson.

# OCEANIDS CREW 2022-2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Honorary Chair: Thespine Kavoulakis, Associate of the Chancellor

President: Jim Bunch..... 858-453-5765

“Oceanid of the Year” / Maxine White Award

Immediate Past President:

Nigella Hillgarth.....858 228-0446

1st Vice-President: Marion Spors.....858 459-3097  
(Fall Brunch, Spring Lunch)

2nd Vice-President: Mary Cutchin ...858-729-3888  
(Membership, directory updates)

Recording Secretary: Mary Hanson 858-456-1304

Treasurer: Jan Ouren.....858 273-1681

Financial Secretary: Liz Winant .....858-231-1496

Nominating Committee: Sophie Haimsohn, Anne-France Saillot, Judy Vacquier, Roswitha Enright, Hulya Saygin (cont), Olivia Werner (alt)

Parliamentarian: Barbara Bank .....858-484-4597

Interest Gr. Coordinator: Judy Vacquier  
858-361-0418

Newcomers: Liz Fong Wills..... 858-454-6858

Historian; TBD

Refreshment Reminder: Mary Hanson 858-456-1304

Sunshine Committee: Diana Vines.....858 459 8248

SDIS: Dorothy Parker.....858 453-6351

OCEANIDS NEWS is the newsletter of Oceanids, a UCSD campus organization. Published bi-monthly except July, August & September. Letters to the Editor and articles of interest to UCSD are invited and greatly appreciated. Address all submissions to: UC San Diego Oceanids  
c/o ISEO - Student Center B  
9500 Gilman Drive #0018  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0018

PLEASE NOTE The Post Office does not forward OCEANIDS NEWS. Please notify membership chairs of any change of address. Membership and/or subscriptions are \$35 per year

E-MAIL: [oceanids@ucsd.edu](mailto:oceanids@ucsd.edu) and also email: [enrightroswitha@gmail.com](mailto:enrightroswitha@gmail.com) and [mwoonew@gmail.com](mailto:mwoonew@gmail.com)

OCEANIDS ONLINE: <http://ccom.ucsd.edu/~oceanids/>

BOARD MEETINGS: first Thursday every month

Call president for location. Coffee and refreshments: 9:30 am, meeting starts at 10 am



### President's Message

As I promised in the last issue, this time I will tell you about my proudest achievement as a tourist, namely, getting thrown out of a French restaurant in Paris for complaining about the food.

I had just flown from Tel Aviv to Paris and checked into the hotel that my Parisian friend had recommended. He also recommended that I not eat on the Left Bank as "they cheat tourists all the time now". However, there was a wonderful French restaurant on the Left Bank at which I had eaten every time that I had been in Paris. I headed for it and found the location, but now there was a Greek restaurant in that location.

I hadn't come to Paris to eat Greek food; I wanted French food. I had passed a French restaurant while walking down the Left Bank. I went back to it.

I ordered the lamb dish. (Note that all the conversation with the waiter was in my French. I used to speak French with a German accent, but by 1992 I'm sure my accent was totally American.)

When it came and I tasted it, I said to myself: "This isn't lamb--it's beef." I took another taste and was very sure that it was beef. I called the waiter over and told him so. He claimed it was lamb, not beef. We went back and forth for a while and then he walked off. My conclusion was that he had switched my lamb with someone else's beef, but he wasn't going to admit that he had made a mistake.

There was an English couple at the next table. The woman said to me: "Let me taste it. I am allergic to lamb. If it's lamb, I'll know right away." She tried it and said: "It's definitely beef."

I called the waiter over again and we had a further back and forth. Then the manager came over and said to me in English: "You go! You no pay! You go!"

I got up and left. I didn't try to find another French restaurant. My appetite was completely gone. I went back to the hotel and went to bed. When I told my friend about it the next day, he said: "I told you so."

However, I am very proud that I was thrown out of a French restaurant in Paris rather than being intimidated by a French waiter into eating the wrong dish.

Jim Bunch

**Dr. Jefferson** will talk about gray whales, other marine mammals and birds that we might see on the Sunday whale watching trips. Migration, morphology, behavior, gestation, exploitation, and recovery are some of the topics Dr. Jefferson will cover. He has many photos to illustrate these points and will bring some interesting whale parts (i.e. baleen, rib, etc). Many of the interesting facts will be repeated when appropriate on the actual trip. His main goal is for people to learn about what we will see on the trips on Sunday.

## Oceanids Gallery of Arts + Crafts

by Jan Ouren

In this issue, Oceanids Gallery of Arts + Crafts exhibits a collection of Nambé, owned and curated by **Marion Spors, Ph.D.**, Oceanids First Vice President.

Nambé products are made from an alloy composed of aluminum and a few other metals. Its serveware--platters, pitchers and serving bowls--is known for its biomorphic design and utility. From the company's website (<https://www.Nambé.com>): "Recognized for its award-winning designs for more than 60 years, Nambé's commitment to timeless beauty, artistic integrity and uncompromising quality is evident in the brand's collection of serveware, barware, home décor and gift items. Nambé collaborates with the world's most esteemed designers to develop products that bring function and style into the home."

Marion writes about her collection:

I came to UCLA as a graduate student (EAP scholar) with my then boyfriend Julian Schroeder (post doc) in 1987. Upon completion we were married in 1991 in lovely Torrey Pines on the Guy Fleming trail. My dear friend Annegret von der Malsburg gifted me then and there my first Nambé bowl and it was love at first sight. Coming from Germany I loved everything Bauhaus and Mid-Century modern. The early pieces, still made in the US, are exceptional as is the quality of the craftsmanship. Like any other business Nambé had its ups and downs along the way. The company was sold and today most of their designs are fabricated abroad. You can still buy beautiful pieces at Amazon, Bloomingdale's and Nordstrom and I have bought the occasional piece there. However, I love hunting for vintage Nambé and I am quite happy with my current collection of some 25 old and new pieces. Most of all, I am delighted to use each and every one for parties and dinners. My love for the timeless design and beauty of anything Nambé will never cease.



- **Nambé Morphik chip and salsa bowl**



**Nambé Shrimp and Sauce bowl**

- **Nambé Grand lava bowl**



- **Nambé Butterfly bowl, picture frame and candle holders**

In closing, let me encourage you to exhibit your arts and crafts in Oceanids' virtual gallery, be they created or curated by you! If interested, please email me, [jouren@san.rr.com](mailto:jouren@san.rr.com).



This years membership luncheon at Geisel House was a great success thanks to the generosity of our honorary chair Thespine Kavoulakis and her team who gifted us with a wonderful English tea party. We all loved the colorful fascinators and enjoyed the delicious offerings. Most of all we are proud of this years student award recipients: see below



**Left to right:**  
Nicole Reardon, Yash Kejriwal, Tiffany Yuen,  
Eric De Haas, Nicole Pham, Olivia Santoyo  
Turullols

## OCEANIDS' INTEREST GROUPS

are the backbone of our Oceanids organization. They are here to meet the many varied needs of UCSD families, especially those new to the UCSD campus and the community. If you don't find an activity you would like to participate in, please contact Interest Group Coordinator Judy Vacquier (858) 361-0418 or [jvacq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jvacq@sbcglobal.net). If five or more Oceanids wish to start a new group, please let her know so we can inform other members. All we ask is that your members be Oceanids. If you are not yet a member of Oceanids, please consider joining us by contacting Mary Cutchin, 858-459-8074, [marycutchin@yahoo.com](mailto:marycutchin@yahoo.com) or by submitting the application form in this issue. Since the newsletter is posted on the Oceanids website we will, for security reasons, not publish addresses (with occasional exceptions). Please call the contact for the necessary information.

If you meet in person the chair has to fill out the FAS Event Liability Form and mail it to Beate Menzel [jrbmlmenzel@cox.net](mailto:jrbmlmenzel@cox.net)

### BIRDING GROUP

Contacts: Liz Winant

(858) 231 1496, [lizwinant@gmail.com](mailto:lizwinant@gmail.com)

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month during the academic year. Avisets, the Oceanids birding group will resume meeting after a summer break, on October 9 at San Elijo Lagoon visitor center at 8:30 8:30 am. The meeting location for November is TBA.

**Next outings:** December 9 and January 13.

### BOOK GROUP

Contact: janet goff

<[janetrgoff@hotmail.com](mailto:janetrgoff@hotmail.com), Liz Winant [lizwinant@gmail.com](mailto:lizwinant@gmail.com)

We meet on the second Tuesday morning of every month at 9:30 AM for chatting and 10 AM for review. Everyone is welcome; we are happy to greet new members who like to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction and who value good writing and a lively discussion. Please join us.

We would love to have you in our jolly little group. Our gatherings consist of 9 or 10 of us and there's always room for more. Please be one of them.

Date "Title" by Author / Host / Reviewer

DEC 10 "Kairos" by Jenny Erpenbeck / CCC / Sue Corringham

JAN 14 "Pudd'nhead Wilson" by Mark Twain / CCC /

Marcia Bookstein

### BOOGIE BOARDING BUDDIES

Contact: Liz Fong Wills [ludditelizfong@gmail.com](mailto:ludditelizfong@gmail.com)

We meet every Saturday at 9:30 am and/or Sunday at 10:30 am all year round when the ocean water temperature at La Jolla Shores is 55 degrees F. or more. However, attendance is when you can make it. You must bring your own boogie board plus wetsuit if you feel the need for one. Depending upon how many come, I may or may We meet on the second Tuesday morning of every month at 9:30 AM not have spca in the driveway. Call (232-7545) before Thursday to let me know if you want to join us so that I can confirm that there are no riptides or other unpleasant problems on the day we go.

### CAFE ESPAÑOL

Contacts: Alicia 858 353-3878

353-3878; Vicky Lindblade [vlindblade@mac.com](mailto:vlindblade@mac.com) or (858)-452 1739

This conversation group is designed for fluent Spanish speakers who wish to keep up their Spanish and learn new vocabulary.

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in person and occasionally the 4th Thursday by zoom from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. One hour of conversation and one hour of reading aloud and group discussion. Call chair for more information.

### CAFÉ FRANÇAIS

Contacts: Anne-France Saillot,

[af.saillot@gmail.com](mailto:af.saillot@gmail.com)

We still meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month starting October, to the exception of this September as we say our goodbyes to one of our long time members who is moving out of state. We continue to talk about general societal topics which create lively debates !We take every opportunity to check on grammar rules and vocabulary. We meet from 12:00 to 3:00.

**Meeting: December 11 and Januaey 8.**

### CELLPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Contact: Kim

Signoret-Paar, [kspaar@outlook.com](mailto:kspaar@outlook.com)

The group meets on Zoom on the second Thursday of each month at 10 am to noon for discussion/ demonstration/ instruction and sharing of our cellphone photographs. Activities, such as field trips, will be communicated to the group's email list. For more information, please contact Kim.

**Next meetings: December 12 and January 9.**

### CINEMA SOIRÉE

Contact: Jim Bunch at [jbunch@ucsd.edu](mailto:jbunch@ucsd.edu)

The group meets (in normal times) at a designated home on the second Sunday of each month (all year long) at 7:00pm for socializing; movie discussion starts at 7:30pm sharp. Light refreshments will be served. You will be contacted by e-mail about which movie to see and where the discussion takes place.

**Next meeting: December 8 and January 12.**

### DAY BRIDGE

Contact: Beate Menzel

[jrbmlmenzel@cox.net](mailto:jrbmlmenzel@cox.net) or (619) 401-1557

We meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month all year long at various members' homes. We start at 10am and usually end at or

before 3pm. Everyone brings her/his own lunch. The hostess will provide drinks. Call for information.

**Next meetings: December 3+17 and January 7+21.**

## **GERMAN KAFFEEKLATSCH**

Contact: Roswitha Enright 858 459-7375 ([renright@ucsd.edu](mailto:renright@ucsd.edu))

This group is for beginners and experienced German speakers alike. Guaranteed no pressure. Just come on the 3rd Tuesday at 3pm and have a good time. Only German spoken. If you want to join, please ccontact Roswitha. TIME: 3 PM TO 4:30 PM.

**Next meetings: Decwember 17 and January 21.**

## **HORTICULTURE, a new Interest Group for all who love plants and like to care for them.**

Contact: Nancy Groves, (858) 453-6486; [nancygroves@me.com](mailto:nancygroves@me.com)

## **MOVEABLE FEAST II**

Contact: Mary Cutchin

(858) 729 3888 or [marycutchin@yahoo.com](mailto:marycutchin@yahoo.com)

This group meets every couple of months for drinks at a member'shouse. From there we carpool to the restaurant.

Next dinner call Mary. Contact Mary for information and reservations.

## **PIANO AND CHAMBER SOIRÉE**

Contact: Judy

Vacquier (858) 361-0418 or [jvacq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jvacq@sbcglobal.net)

The Piano Soiree will meet December 22 at 3 pm at the home of Judy Vacquier. In January, we will meet January 26 at 3 pm at the home of Michael Gorman. Judy will send out information and requests for RSVP's to the group members one week before.

**Next meetings: December 22 and January 26.**

## **TAPAS ON THURSDAY**

Contact : Barbara Bank

[bbank@ucsd.edu](mailto:bbank@ucsd.edu)

The strength of our group is the warmth we share. If you wish to join us, please contact Barbara Bank ([bbank@ucsd.edu](mailto:bbank@ucsd.edu)) to be added to our mailing list. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, at member's homes. Everyone brings a tapa to share. It may be sweet or savory. We frequently choose a theme for that month's tapas and have a delightful time while sharing food and friendship.

**Next meeting is December 19 and January 16.**

## **WEDNESDAY COFFEE**

Contacts: Georgina

Sham, [gbsham@gmail.com](mailto:gbsham@gmail.com).

Lynn Jahn, [lynnjahn@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjahn@gmail.com).

Come join our social group of Oceanids, newcomers, learn strange, wonderful American customs. Please contact Georgina or Lynn for more information.

## **WINE TASTING I + II**

Contact: Alicia Flores

Meneses at [virginiacisne@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiacisne@yahoo.com) or 858-353 3878

## **DAY OF THE DEAD**

On November 2, 14 international students and scholars joined Chris Chase and her daughter (plus me) on an outing to Barrio Logan for the Day of the Dead. We went to see ofrendas (altars) set up to welcome the souls of the departed for a visit back home. November 1 is the day when the adults are remembered with a photo and a display of the favorite beer or tequila, favorite candies and cookies. November 2 is the day when the children are remembered, again with a photo plus toys and candies but no booze. Attached is a photo of Chris who lived in Mexico for several years as well as a community ofrenda. Chris and her husband Jim lived in Mexico for several years before Covid and has adopted the Mexican culture as her own. She was our guide for both the ofrendas and the murals in Chicano Park. We had lunch at a new restaurant and a mainland Chinese student was heard to say that she loved tacos and that these were the best she had ever had! This was an easy and pleasant outing compared to two years ago when we had 58 international students and scholars but no loudspeaker for Chris to use!



Liz Fong Will



## **NEW EXPERIENCES**

**BY CHRIS AND JIM CHASE**

Former Oceanids board member, Chris Chase, and her husband, Jim, a past volunteer with the Kitchen Exchange and Friends resale shop, returned to San Diego permanently in April, on the same day that her Mom relocated to San Diego from her South Carolina home. In order to make this goal of her Mom's happen, Chris & Jim sold their San Miguel de Allende (SMA), Mexico, home and moved back into their Mission Hills' home.

Chris & Jim moved to San Miguel in December 2017 after multiple visits there that year. Having thirty years of one-week R & R beach visits along the coast in the states of Jalisco, Nayarit and Sinaloa, Chris & Jim initially went to SMA solely to visit the place her friends liked. When a week wasn't enough, they went back for a month, which turned into more and then a decision that still more time was needed to really know this lifestyle.

Having booked a South Pacific six-week adventure at the beginning of 2017 for the end of the year, Chris & Jim packed his car with all they'd want in San Miguel and left it in a neighbor's driveway before they headed to Australia. With Jim's car out of the garage, there was room for more of their household treasures, and their house was turned over to a property management company as a rental.

Once back in San Diego from their vacation, Chris & Jim spent a couple of nights acclimating to the change in time zone before driving his packed car to central Mexico. Chris was especially eager to spend a few nights in Big Bend National Park (along the Rio Grande River), one of the few that due to its remoteness they hadn't visited. (The dark sky and raw beauty were terrific.)

Attempting to diligently follow the recommended driving instructions from the Laredo crossing to SMA, Chris & Jim started early in the morning, to be detained five hours waiting to get the documentation needed to drive that far into Mexico. We were SO naïve, given our entry date was 12/22. Every Mexican family that could was returning to their Mexican birthplace, and they all needed the same paperwork that we did! While Jim paced, Chris took out Jim's paper map of Mexico and asked families under the temporary canopy to put an X on the map to show their destination for the night. The complimentary hot chocolate and baked goods provided added to the festivity. But by the time we were authorized to leave, our recommended daylight-travel-only hours were cut in half. How were we going to make it to our reserved hotel?! Well, the reasons for only traveling in daylight were negated by bumper-to-bumper traffic so we went with the flow and: 1) marveled at the number of bicycles piled on vehicles to be given to loved ones upon reaching their destination; 2) drilled each other on Spanish words; and 3) got silly with other bored drivers- in cars and semi-

trucks. When we poured out of our car and into our reserved hotel, we were thrilled to have a bed to sleep in. Naively we set out the next day, again believing it would be a short hop- and stressed about whether we'd be able to access our apartment and the mail service that had received our mail for nearly two months before an undetermined duration of Christmas holiday would commence.

Thus, our perfect introduction to international living: go with the flow, never assume anything & always having more fun with local people than you can imagine- even when your command of their language is limited. Eventually we got very absorbed as homeowners, community non-profit Board members, and travelers to as many parts of Mexico as we could. We loved gaining an appreciation for the crafts of artisans from so many regions and including samples within the décor of our home.

We miss the wonderful friends we made- from all over the US and Canada as well as Mexico-in San Miguel, but we are happy to be back in San Diego with old friends and look fondly upon the items and memories that we brought back with us.

We are sorry to announce the passing of Oceanid **Sally Ledden** on November 25. Sally had been an active member of Oceanids, participating for many years in the Oceanids Movie Soiree group. She was born on March 28, 1940, in Aurora, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Michigan, Magna Cum Laude in 1962. Sally was a proud graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law and received a Juris Doctor Degree from the University. She graduated number 2 in her class, Magna Cum Laude and was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1980. Outside of work, Sally was a talented artist and was enthusiastic about Chinese Brush painting.



A celebration of Sally's life will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 10:00 am at El Camino Memorial Park, 5600 Carroll Canyon Road, San Diego, CA 92121.

## DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
		Day Bridge	Wednesday Coffee	Board Mtg		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Cinema soiree	Birding	Book Group	Wednesday Coffee Cafe Francais	Cafe Espanol Cellphone Photography		
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
		Day Bridge German	Wed. Coffee	Tapas		
<b>22</b>	23	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Piano Soiree			Wed. Coffee			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
				Board Meeting		
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
		Day Bridge	Wednesday Coffee Cafe Francais	Cafe Espanol Cellphone Photography		
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Cinema Soiree	Birding	Book Group	Wednesday Coffee	Tapas		
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
		Day Bridge German	Wednesday Coffee			
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

Piano Soiree

WELCOME NEWCOMERS!  
UC San Diego Oceanids  
c/o ISEO - Student Center B  
9500 Gilman Drive #0018  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0018

**OCEANIDS IS AN OFFICIAL SUPPORT GROUP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, PROMOT- ING FRIENDSHIP AND SHARED INTERESTS, OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SUCCESS AND WELFARE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.**